victim of vagaries of weather—worst of all the high tidal waves from the Bay of Bengal eroding the embankments of its rivulets measuring about 3500 Kms. and rendering the land unfit for any worthwhile agricultural cropping. The only solution is to further strengthen the embankments of its rivulets so that these can stand the crushing tidal waves. For this, some Dutch experts are needed from Holland, as that country has got expertise in countering the impact of devastating tidal waves and for that I would appeal to the Central Government to get into touch with the Dutch Government and secure the services of some experts from there to meet this threat to this poor land. It may be stated that the West Bengal Government is itself in the throes of acute financial crunch and are thus unable to spare any money for this enterprise. It is the Government of India, which can really help the poor people of Sunderbans area and save it from further ruination by the tidal waves, which at times claim some precious human lives also; apart from causing large-scale erosion of the soil, which can be very usefully utilised.

(vii) Need to Provide LPG Connections on Demand to the Consumers of Dakshina Kanada and Kodagu Districts in Karnataka

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu Districts in Karnataka State stretching north to south in between the Arabian Sea and Western Ghats, has been maintaining perfect ecological balance with its rich green forestry. Due to the recent decision of successive State and Central Governments for granting permission for setting up a number of industries in this area, the people are facing the hazard of environmental pollution. Now it has become incumbent on the people not to cut any more fire wood for the fuel purposes.

The people of this region are becoming more and more dependent on LPG for domestic cooking purposes. But the LPG has become a scarce commodity with limited supply outlets. A large number of consumers are waiting for more than five years to get an LPG connection.

In the interest of maintaining the ecological balance of the region and also to meet the greater demand for LPG connection, I request the Government of India to extend the benefit of granting immediate LPG connections to every consumer on demand, in this region, as has been done in the hilly regions elsewhere in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet at 2.35 p.m.

13.33 hours

[The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty-five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.]

14.41 hours

[The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty-one Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.]

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further consideration of the Bill moved by Shri Ramakant D. Khalap on the 26th July, 1996. The time allotted for this Bill is one hour. The balance is 30 minutes.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North): The discussion has not yet started on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think it had commenced. At least five persons have already spoken on this and thirty minutes has already been spent. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, Shri Satya Pal Jain, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar have all spoken.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh); What happened was that when it was taken up for consideration, we spoke on that and then the consideration was deferred. At that time they withdrew from the discussion saying that they would like to bring forward an amended Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): There was a demand that the Schedule be further amended to include Gram Panchayats in the case of Karnataka. This was the suggestion of certain Members. So we decided to ponder over this issue afresh. Accordingly the debate was adjourned on that issue. We have now come back with an official amendment that Gram Panchayats are also to be included in the Schedule relating to Karnataka. This is in deference to the wishes of the Members from Karnataka.

SHRI RAM NAIK: There may not be many speakers. Each Member will try to complete his speech within five minutes. We would not take much time.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Last time two points were raised. They have accepted one point. Another point was—he was here on that day—the MPs and MLAs are ex-officio members of Municipal and Cantonment Boards. The point raised was that by virtue of their being